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UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 001848

SIPDIS

INFO FAA OFFICE MIAMI FL FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMGT](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR FAA EMPLOYEE

REF: DTG 111437Z MAR 04

1. U.S.Embassy Santo Domingo welcomes and grants country clearance to Federal Aviation Administration Safety Inspector Samuel Perry to travel to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The purpose of the visit is to perform 14 CFR part 121 enroute inspection, cargo and line station inspection for Arrow Air, Inc. from March 25 to March 29, 2004. No U.S. Embassy assistance is requested.

2. Travel Documents

All official visitors are encouraged to enter the Dominican Republic on valid passports, with valid visas. If a visa cannot be obtained before entry into the Dominican Republic, a 30-day visa can be purchased for USD 10.00 in the airport terminal upon arrival. A USD 20.00 airport departure tax is charged to all non-residents leaving the country. Many US carriers include this tax in the ticket price, so please consult your ticket.

3. Monetary Exchange

Visitors are encouraged to bring sufficient cash in US Dollars, traveler,s checks or credit cards for cash advances. Many merchants in the DR do not accept US currency in payment for goods and services. Most commercial banks and hotels provide exchange services, with hotels offering slightly less favorable terms than banks. Banco de Reservas, a Dominican commercial bank, offers check cashing and accommodation exchange services in the Embassy from 0900-1535 during official workdays. USG employees are permitted to cash personal checks and can elect to either receive US Dollars or Dominican Pesos. US credit cards, especially Visa and Mastercard, are widely accepted in major cities and tourist areas.

4. Medical Attention

In the event medical services from Embassy Health professionals are needed, visitors will be expected to provide a copy of their orders upon receipt of care. In cases of emergency, please contact Post One at (809) 221-2171, extension 4398 or (809) 731-4398.

5. Cellular Phone Rental

Cell phone rental is available through Codetel, a local provider. Rental costs may vary, but on average cost is USD \$1 per day. Outgoing calls are approximately USD .50 per minute for calls within the Dominican Republic and USD .50 per minute, plus long distance charges, for international calls.

6. Country Threat Assessment

A) Terrorism: The Dominican Republic (DR) is considered low threatpost for terrorism. There are no indigenous terrorist groups operating in the DR. However, transnational terrorism is a possibility due to a number of factors, some of which include porous borders, a culture of corruption, inept police, and the Dominican Republic's support for the war in Iraq. These factors, and others, make the DR a potential target for transnational terrorism.

B) Crime: The Dominican Republic is considered a high threat post for crime. Street robberies, pick pocketing, credit card fraud, ATM fraud, burglaries, and theft from vehicles are all common crimes in the Dominican Republic. If you are the victim of a street robbery, do not resist. Statistically, everyone who resists robbery is injured. Those who cooperate with robbers i.e., give them some money, are always left unharmed. To avoid credit card fraud, avoid excessive use of credit cards while in country. Contact your card provider and advise them what charges you will be making while visiting the DR. Keep a close watch over your credit card charges even weeks after leaving the Dominican Republic.

Fraudulent charges may not appear until well after you have returned to your place of origin. To avoid ATM fraud, use only ATMs that are located in major hotels, or collocated

with banks. Avoid using carro publicos, the least expensive type of taxi. Many travelers have reported being pick pocketed in these vehicles. Use established taxi services, or hotel taxis, which are considered safe.

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